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### Connecticut College News Vol. 11 No. 15

Connecticut College

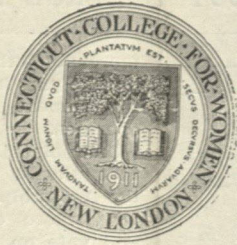
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## IS CHRISTIANITY PRACTICAL?

Conference Faces Issue.

The mid-winter religious conference for men and women of the New England Colleges convened at the Northfield Hotel from February 12 to 14. The principal speaker was Reverend Reinhold Niebuhr of Detroit, who is one of the editors of the "Christian Century."

Mr. Niebuhr's theme was "Why Be a Christian To-day?" Beside the lectures, there were eight discussion groups which were concerned with more definite religious problems on the college campus.

Most of the delegates were apparently convinced that the ideal Christian life tends toward deepest peace and happiness; that it leads ultimately to spiritual satisfaction and comfort. The universal question seemed to be "How can one be a Christian; what elements, qualities, and attributes are involved?" This was dealt with most satisfactorily in the smaller group meetings, where other religious perplexities were also discussed with keen interest.

It was agreed that the Christian life means love, service, self-discipline, tolerance, and humility. To follow Christ's principles, his own life and teachings is to "live best and serve most." The life of a true Christian is active and not monastic; it is essentially unselfish and altruistic. A person may understand the principles of Christ and believe in them—but if he lives apart from his fellowman—keeping Christ's doctrines entirely within himself—he is not a true Christian. The Christian spirit is not a foreign principle which has to be introduced into a man; it is an integral part of the substance and structure of his nature, and merely needs to be liberated.

Can the Christian religion be translated into terms of human conduct? Can it become the driving power of noble life? Can it be applied to solving our concrete problems? Being intelligent young people, and intellectually curious, we often lean toward materialism in that we want proof and evidence for everything before we accept it. We have definite questions about life and religion and we want them answered specifically. The things we want to know cannot be answered for us by anyone. We find solutions only through personal experience which is had by *living*. Those who have had a longer opportunity to study problems can advise us of methods by which we may arrive at conclusions but explicit answers cannot be given. Our reason cannot be bullied or soothed into acquiescence.

"God," said Jesus, "is spirit." Man is spirit no less; and when the two meet in fellowship there is religion. Most of us recognize that there exists a power greater than we are. It matters not whether we call it spirit, goodness, conscience, or God. The value lies not in the name but in the reality. The student of to-day believes that definitions and dogmas do not matter. He feels that religion has been buried in theological fortresses of creeds and institutions. The young people of to-

Continued on page 3, column 3.

## HOW ABOUT IT?

What? Your suggestions and opinions regarding the "Reorganization Plan."

Where? In the "Suggestion Box" in the gym.

When? Now!

Why? To constructively criticize the new plan.

What Else? Remember that we will vote on the new plan before spring vacation; that this is a student form of college government; that it is up to us as students to put it over.

## CLAYTON HAMILTON DISCUSSES "THE RIVALS."

Clayton Hamilton, a well known dramatic critic, spoke to the College on Monday night at 7 o'clock upon the subject of "The Rivals" and its author, Richard Brinsley Sheridan. In a style which for its humor might lead one to think of a resemblance with the man of whom he talked, he related how two of the three plays which have established themselves in the English theater from the time of Shakespeare to the present day, came to be written by a young man at the ages of twenty-three and twenty-five.

Sheridan was endowed with a heritage favorable to dramatic composition. His father was an actor of considerable eminence and also the manager of a theater, in consequence of which his son was brought up in a theatrical environment. His mother, too, was a novelist and a play-wright. Though Irish by birth he grew up in England.

His ambition throughout life was "to do what everyone else was doing, but to do it better," a project which he carried out with remarkable success. Moving in the highest circles of society he was recognized as the most shining star within them. He entered the House of Commons at twenty-eight and became the most brilliant speaker in its history. He wrote two plays of which one is now celebrating the sesqui-centennial anniversary of its first production.

His marriage was in some measure directly responsible for his writing "The Rivals." Not satisfied with conventional proceedings, he undertook a chaperoned elopement with a girl that he did not love, placed her in a convent, then, when her father took her home, disguised himself as the coachman and fell in love with his wife whom he was driving. Feeling the need of earning some money, he decided to write a play. He set about composing one between dinner-parties, and having gotten it accepted, neglected to finish it until the actors captured and confined him for that purpose.

The first production was a dismal failure, for it was five hours long, and that amount of the most uproarious comedy is almost more than an audience can stand. With the second performance it was cut down to ordinary length and never has failed since.

Mr. Hamilton's lecture was preparatory to a performance of "The Rivals"

## ASTRONOMER TO ADDRESS CONVOCATION.

The speaker at the next Convocation hour, February 23rd, will be Harlow Shapley, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University. His subject will be, "Seeking the Limits of the Universe."

Professor Shapley is well qualified to present to us some of the remarkable achievements which scientists have made in the field of Astronomy in recent years. From 1914 to 1921, he was astronomer at the Mount Wilson Observatory, California; and since 1921 has held the position of director of the Harvard Observatory. He is a member of numerous scientific associations in this country and an associate member of the Royal Astronomical Society of England.

The chief contributions which he himself has made to the science have been researches in the fields of photometry and spectroscopy, in orbital theory and computation, and cosmogony. These are large words, but the subject which they treat of is also large, and we need not, because of them, doubt our interest in the lecture. Such a subject must necessarily offer a strong challenge to our interest and to our imagination.

## ALUMNAE WEEK-END FEBRUARY 20.

The "C. C." Alumnae will return to campus the week end of Washington's birthday. All Branford House will be given over to them.

Several events have been planned for their entertainment. The Annual Alumnae-Undergraduate basket ball game will be played Saturday afternoon at 2.30. That evening Professors Bauer and Weld will give a musical concert.

On Sunday afternoon, the New London Chapter of the "C. C." Alumnae Association will serve tea at Colonial House. After a special Vesper Service, President Marshall will read poetry in Colonial House.

On Monday, Washington's birthday, there will be an Alumnae Luncheon at Colonial House.

given in New London at the Lyceum Theater on Wednesday, starring Mrs. Minnie Madden Fiske.

## FACULTY VOICES HEARD ON REORGANIZATION.

Faculty opinion has been sought on the subject of Student Government, especially in regard to reorganization. The following are some excerpts from the replies received in answer to a questionnaire which was sent last week to the entire faculty body:

"We cannot live together, of course, without government, nevertheless government is a necessary evil rather than an end to be desired in itself. There is always more danger, I believe, in making government too elaborate than in making it too simple. Sane simplicity is as desirable here as anywhere else. Particularly here in America we seem to have almost a mania for attempting to put everything under governmental control. We are of course in a way our brother's keeper, but we ought not to try to 'keep' him so tight and fast that his liberties and our energies suffer under the regime."

The following opinions were had on the subject of student vs. college government (i. e., joint student and faculty control):

"The policy and practice of Student Government is most desirable for C. C., and despite certain human defects, has so far approved itself as is worthy only of maintenance and development."

"It would be a backward step, it seems to me, to admit inability on the part of the students to control themselves—the faculty do not need government, and their part would be administrative only."

"I consider either one entirely fitting for Connecticut College. Personally, I like the plan of giving full control of all non-academic matters to the students."

"The present degree of jointness seems satisfactory."

"The distinction between community government and Student Government does not seem to me to be so sharp in reality as it appears to be on paper. We have at present Student Government, tempered, however, with a certain amount of faculty control, or at least participation."

"I feel that a decidedly firm faculty touch is needed at C. C. until the girls come to realize that it is just as dishonorable to break a social rule as it is to crib or break rules that may be considered more personal."

"Students are usually happier and more satisfied under Student Government."

"Student Government is exemplary of the spirit of the college if well carried out."

Of twelve (12) questionnaires which have been filled out and returned by the faculty, in the matter of final faculty or assembly power in passing legislation, three (3) faculty believe that final power should be vested in the assembly, three (3) believe there should be a joint agreement between faculty and students, before a bill which was disapproved by faculty be presented to the assembly. Two (2) faculty were undecided on the matter; four (4) were non-committal.

All faculty answers, except one, who was undecided, showed that they felt

Continued on page 4, column 2.

## Connecticut College News

ESTABLISHED 1916

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Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at New London, Connecticut.

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## OPEN LETTERS.

Dear Editor: Periodically I feel the urge to unburden my soul on some one of the many abuses of my college career, and here I am again. This time I have the welfare of the poor Senior Class at heart. Poor, poor Seniors, no one would ever suspect that you ever had anything like Senior Privileges to brighten your long last College lap! Therefore I propose that something be done to remedy conditions.

1. Do Seniors always precede underclassmen as befits their years and dignity

- On entering any buildings
- On boarding trolley cars
- On arriving anywhere where age should go before beauty?

2. Do the underclassmen (particularly the Freshmen class) ever think of offering their seats in the trolley car to the care-worn and haggard members of '26?

3. Do the three lower classes realize that flapping galoshes are a sign of maturity and seniority, and as such should be affected only by those who have attained the position of Seniors?

4. As for the 8.50 post-office privilege, according to the struggle that goes on, the whole college has become elevated to our most illustrious class.

5. Do the lower classes furthermore realize that perhaps the Seniors would enjoy going into the dining room with less shouting and pushing than is necessary at the present time?

These are mere suggestions. We Seniors really hate to be old Joe disagreeables, but after all we are getting older and more decrepit, and we do rather enjoy having our great age respected. And besides, we'll soon be leaving you all, and then maybe you'll wish that you had been a little more considerate of our feelings and privileges.

And now, dear Editor, I will close, hoping this little unburdenment of smoldering fires will not cause too much ironic comment, but instead will awaken the latent respect of the younger collegians for their elders.

S '26.

Dear Editor: I have heard a good deal of discussion of the new plan for reorganizing our Student Government, and the majority of it favored the new plan. We realize that at present the responsibility and work are concentrated on too few people. The members of

## THE LOITERER.

Here we are again, somewhat chagrined that the college body has been able to continue along its well ordered paths without the sermons, hints and other significant savings which it has been our weekly habit to perpetuate. Evidently we haven't made ourselves felt. By the way—does the college know that The Loiterer is more than one mind, in fact several minds which alternate and fluctuate together? We just thought that they might be interested.

Anyway, The Loiterer pro tempore is as interested as lots of other people are in what is going on, particularly in the big business of Student Government reorganization. Individual responsibility has always been classified—not theoretically, but practically with the ideal ideas of the present civilization, and The Loiterer in her collegiate way has always agreed with civilization. According to well known statistics, the "Old Form" gave only thirteen persons annual opportunity to practice this practical ideal. Also, no more than five people in a single class could have any active experience with Student Government before Senior year. Along with the popular method of giving all duties to the same people, it has usually been the case that no more than three, at the limit four, have been sufficiently experienced to be possible candidates of the office of President. All of which has been regretted many times, but never sufficiently to cause anything to happen.

Under the "New Plan" ample opportunity is given nine people to become sufficiently experienced to at least be able to guess at the duties of President. This is one of the most outstanding improvements, and one which should yield most significant results. It will of course be difficult for the college body to become accustomed to the fact that several people in one class are possessed of executive capabilities and understanding to the degree of being able to assume responsibility. However, The Loiterer urges a policy of optimism, and suggests that it may really be the truth.

Up to the present time much has been said and written about the present reorganization, and every possible thing has been done to acquaint even the most timid and retiring collegians with the fact that something important is going on. Doubtless there are many people who are fully aware of the proposed change, and doubtless there are equally as many people who have not bothered to become aware. There is also room for the supposition that those who are yet unaware are those who have been the most flagrant in their denunciation of the working of student government. However, they would probably be interested only in a system of anarchy, which subject we can't bother to develop. We can hardly bother to speculate as to why these persons are here at all. They probably do not know themselves. But whether or no there is any reason at all for their occupying our room and board, The Loiterer knows from personal and impersonal experience that both the room and board would become much more attractive if the occupant either left them entirely, or showed some signs of life.

the present Student Council are forced to give entirely too much of their time and energy to the management of Student affairs. The new plan will make a much fairer division of the work and

more students will be given a chance to take part in the workings of Student Government, and to understand how it operates.

One point about the new organization that should work practically well is the Assembly. By giving the student body more opportunities to consider and vote on student affairs, more interest will be aroused in Student Government, and this arousal of interest should lead to a greater feeling of responsibility in the observance of rules. We would be much less likely to break rules that we ourselves had imposed.

One feature of the new organization that I do not like is the relieving of the class presidents from responsibility in any of the divisions of the organization. I believe that this policy will result in the election of girls who have no great executive ability for the office of class president. The girls capable of leading a class will be given a place in Student Government, and the class as an organization will not hold together so well. Will not this prove a misfortune?

To the Would-Be Student via The Editor: Isn't it splendid to be young and gay and have opinions, opinions all your own and delightfully verdant. I remember when I too had pretty little opinions, awfully positive and all that sort of thing. I was never very reticent either; I would just as soon have syndicated them all over the universe. Consequently, I do feel capable of sympathizing with you in your burst of girlish enthusiasm, wherein you seek to raise the standards of academic stimulation. You might just as well aim high; it really doesn't do a bit of harm.

The only real difficulty that will cross your path will be drastic criticism, in which you will be relegated to the ranks of irretrievable immaturity. But then that is to be expected; you may even enjoy it, I sometimes did. You see people always have hated to be criticized; they never know whether or not such general criticism as you propagate is aimed at them or not. So they put it aside as being impractical and immature. I wonder if you object? Then too if they are really concerned they will think and say that the whole system is wrong, that no student has a right to any opinions other than those on page 192 of a recognized text. I hate to put this all before you; it may make you feel awfully futile. But don't—just put these opinions and things away until your wings have grown a little stronger, then put them out in the sunlight. I venture to say that you will be hailed as a sage and seer. Won't that be splendid?

And now before I stop advising you—I will encourage you by agreeing with your idea. It is true that education is conducted on too large a scale. I often wonder if we aren't working toward an educational revolution, which may result in a division of labor, which will make education more intimate, more on the order of the Oxford tutorial system. If a few more people recognized the existing inadequacies of the system this might be accomplished. So, as I suggested before, hold on to your ideas, they may yet fall on fertile soil.

An Interested Bystander.

## COLLEGES SEEK TO FOSTER STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN SCHOOLS.

The Women's Intercollegiate Association of Student Government of which Connecticut College is a member, and the Southern Intercollegiate Association of Student Government have recently created a distinct department for the extension of student participation in government in secondary schools. For several years the two associations did this kind of work in-

dependently. In the Southern Association a Graduate Adviser directed the college in carrying on this work, and in the eastern association a committee of college students did it. Then as the amount of work increased, the two associations realized that college students could not do this extension work efficiently on account of their many other conflicting duties. They therefore voted to employ a secretary whose whole time was to be devoted to extension work for both associations. Such a secretary was secured and her work began in the fall of 1925.

Everyone always asks how the colleges happen to be doing this work for high schools. It came about in this way. College student government officials visualized how much Freshman training would be simplified if the Freshmen had experienced the advantages of student government in the high schools and preparatory schools from which they came. They felt that their efforts would be repaid, if by helping secondary schools to develop such government, they would better prepare the oncoming college students for the responsibilities of self government there. It was not long, however, before the Intercollegiate Associations broadened their purpose in the extension work and saw the fine chance of helping secondary school students develop their sense of honor and good citizenship whether or not they ever attended a college.

Since the territory in which the Extension Secretary was to work necessarily had to be limited in some way, it has been restricted to the states in which there is at least one college that is a member of the W. I. A. S. G. or the S. I. A. S. G. This makes in all, twenty-three states in which the work is carried on. It reaches over 3,000 secondary schools.

The work of the Extension Department consists in gathering up information about student participation in government and relaying it on to secondary schools. It tries always to gain the co-operation of state educational officials before approaching the schools. It attempts through correspondence to interest principals, faculty, and students, and where specific help is needed, to give it. The department is not originating plans or proposing new schemes of government; it is rather making it possible for the high schools that have worked out successful methods of government to share their knowledge gained through experience with thousands of other schools.

It is a fine thing that the college women of the South and East are doing to support such an undertaking. Their support, however, must not end with their college years, for it is when they are teachers and workers in the secondary schools that they must remember this extension work and personally help the students to take upon their shoulders their share of the privilege and responsibility of governing their own school community.

## CLASS OFFICERS OF 1929.

Eleanor Fahey, President.  
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Katherine Congdon, Treasurer.  
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Muriel Ewing, Chairman of Sports  
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**FURTHER CHANGES IN REORGANIZATION PLAN.**

"Rome was not built in a day," and neither is the proposed reorganization plan as yet perfect in all of its parts. Faculty, Students and Alumnae will be interested in the changes which have been made this week.

One of the largest alterations in the plan concerns the Cabinet. Instead of meeting at regular intervals as was formerly proposed, the Cabinet will now convene only when called by the President of Student Government for the purpose of advising her, or pass on legislation from the Senate involving a change in policy, or to meet with the faculty committees. The President of Student Government will serve as an ex-officio member of House Board, Senate, and Honor Court, and will thus form a connecting link in the three branches of the government.

The second proposed change is to put all judiciary matters in the hands of the Honor Court, thus eliminating the minor judiciary under the House Board and achieving greater unity. The office of House President will still be a more elevated one than formerly, however. House Presidents will be moved forward in the order of elections, and will have a great responsibility in that they directly represent the social branch of the government through the House Board.

One of the biggest questions still a issue is whether or not final legislative power is to rest in the hands of the faculty or the assembly, or whether it will be by joint agreement. More replies to the questionnaire which was sent to the faculty are being awaited to help solve this problem.

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**IS CHRISTIANITY PRACTICAL?**  
*Concluded from page 1, column 1.*

day are getting beyond the fringe of Christianity into the *essence*, where they will find universal truth.

Is not man's reason the very essence of man? How, then, can he be converted at all unless he is converted there? The young person thinks that religion is entirely too much on an emotional basis, and therefore is not sensible or rational. True religion goes beyond reason into the realms of faith which the individual must define for himself. Theologians weaken their case by eternally arguing it. As L. P. Jacks says, "Religion is one of those high things, and there are many such in life, which lose their meaning when they are over-defended, or over-explained. In explaining them, we are apt to explain them away, without being aware that we are doing so. Whenever the truths of religion are too much defended they are cheapened; and when cheapened they become incredible.

Faith is what we, as young people need most in religion. It is difficult to attain without losing the desired critical attitude, necessary to a progressive, lasting religion, built on a firm basis. Ultimate happiness and contentment are never arrived at, but the way we live and strive toward the manifestation of the Soul shall determine our desire for Christianity.

"These are the gifts I ask of thee,  
 Spirit serene:  
 Strength for the daily task,  
 Courage to face the road,  
 Good cheer to help me bear the traveler's load  
 And, for the hours of rest that come between  
 An inward joy in all things heard and seen.  
 These are the sins I fain  
 Would have thee take away:  
 Malice and cold disdain,  
 Hot anger, sullen hate,  
 Scorn of the lonely, envy of the great,  
 And discontent that casts a shadow gray  
 On all the brightness of the common day."

—Henry Van Dyke.

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**THE DANCE POPULAR.**

Tea Dance, the biggest social event planned by Service League, took place last Saturday evening in Colonial House and was indeed a huge success. The week-end festivities really started with a dance for the Glee Club in Colonial House on Friday evening. Kell Patch's

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orchestra from town provided the music. The festivities were resumed at three-thirty Saturday afternoon with a tea dance. Worthy Hill's orchestra from Hartford furnished the music for this dance. A feature of the afternoon was a solo dance by Gertrude Reaske. At six o'clock the afternoon dance ended. About twenty couple had dinner in Colonial Dining Hall and a number of couples had dinner in Thames Dining Hall. The big climax of the week-end was, of course, Tea Dance itself on Saturday evening from seven-thirty till midnight. The waitresses were dressed in keeping with St. Valentine's Day. They wore short red skirts, white blouses, tiny hats, and black shoes and stockings with a red heart as a buckle on each shoe. Besides cutting in on the dancers, the waitresses were most efficient in serving cherry ice and small cakes. Louise Wall, Laura Dunham, Elizabeth Fowler, Katherine Foster, Margaret Durkee, Eleanor Whittier, Mary Storer, Olive La Har, Carmen Guenard, Adelaide King, and Helen Little acted as waitresses. The patronesses were Mrs. Marshall, Dean Benedict, Dean Nye, and Miss Ernst.

**CALENDAR.**

February 20, Saturday—Alumnae-Student Basketball game, 2.30 P. M.  
February 20, Saturday—Bauer-Weld musical, Gymn. 8.15 P. M.  
February 20, Saturday—Faculty-Alumnae Tea, Colonial House, 4 P. M.  
February 21, Sunday—Special Alumnae Vesper Service.  
February 21, Sunday—Reading by President Marshall, Colonial House, after Vespers.  
February 22, Monday—Alumnae Luncheon, Colonial House.  
February 23, Tuesday—Convocation.  
February 23, Tuesday—Jacques Thibaud Concert, Bulkeley Auditorium.  
February 25, Thursday—Basketball Game.

**FACULTY VOICES HEARD ON  
REORGANIZATION.**

Concluded from page 1, column 4.

there was a decided need for reorganization.

Student Council hopes to hear from other Faculty members by the end of this week, and wishes to express gratitude for cooperation shown thus far.

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**BASKETBALL SEASON  
OPENS.**

The inter-class basketball season of 1926 has opened. Those who have been watching the preliminary try-outs predict that the bid for this year's championship will be greatly contested.

In accordance with the new plan of A. A. Council, squads only have been chosen. First team berths will not be awarded until the end of the season. The following are the squads and the games schedule for the season:

**TEAMS.**

**Seniors**—Andrews, Brooks, Burt, Cogswell, Damerall, A. Elsen, M. Elsen, Ferris, Gordon, T. Hewlett, Linsley, Parker, Sternberg, M. Smith, Thompson, Beebe.—Non-playing, Mgr. Dunham.

**Juniors**—Battey, Chatfield, Chittenden, Clark, M. Crofoot, Fisher, Fletcher, Gunnell, Higgins, Hunt, Jerman, McKee, Surpluss, Wall, Woodruff, Woodworth.—Non-playing, Mgr. Lamson.

**Sophomores**—D. Bayley, K. Booth, R. Booth, Berger, Coe, Crofoot, Cloyes, Cornelius, Drake, Dunning, Gay, Huling, Kelley, Leserman, Norris, H. Owens, M. Peterson, Prugh, Wimelback.—Non-playing, Mgr. Arthur.

**Freshman**—Adams, Bauer, Boomer, Bristol, Ewing, Heintz, Jones, Spear, Latimer, Ranney, Reed, Reilly, Rixey, Rothwell Scattergood, Slayter, Steinwedell.—Non-playing, Mgr. Congdon.

**GAMES SCHEDULE.**

Friday, February 19—Senior-Sophomore (first team).

Sophomore-Freshman (second team).

Thursday, February 25—Sophomore-Freshman (first team).

Senior-Junior (second team).

Wednesday, March 3—Senior-Sophomore (second team).

Junior-Freshman (second team).

Saturday, March 6—Senior-Sophomore (first team).

Junior-Freshman (first team).

Wednesday, March 10—Senior-Freshman (first team).

Junior-Sophomore (second team).

Friday, March 12—Junior-Sophomore (first team).

Freshman-Senior (second team).

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